



# BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

On New Year's Eve, we worked with other agencies around the county to do extra DUI enforcement. Here in our city, there were 2 DUI arrests, 3 traffic arrests for other offenses, 2 felony arrest warrants located and arrested, and 11 tickets. One of the two DUI arrests stemmed from a hit and run crash outside of a bar in east Bremerton. A driver fled after striking another vehicle. As Officer Frank Shaw was investigating the collision and preparing to broadcast a suspect vehicle description, Sgt. Billy Renfro had observed a possible drunk driver and began following that car, which turned out to be the one involved in the hit and run. Once stopped, the driver was found to be highly intoxicated. After refusing to exit the vehicle, she was arrested without incident. As she was escorted back to a patrol car, she was crying that this was "our fault". The other part of this that falls under the heading "You Can't Make This Stuff Up" is the fact that she worked for...an ignition interlock company, installing those devices required by the court for drunk drivers.

Maybe you've heard that phrase that integrity is doing the right thing when nobody is watching? We handled a call of two people epically failing that test this week. Officers responded to a fast food restaurant, very late at night, in West Bremerton when a customer waited at the counter for over fifteen minutes and nobody ever came out. The customer became justifiably concerned and called 911. Officers arrived to find a note from the night clerk, stating she "had enough" and quit. The plot thickened when the cash drawer was nowhere to be found.

About ten minutes after Officers Jason Vertefeulle and Joshua Stottlemeyer arrived, the manager showed up. The manager had received a text message from the (now former) employee about her quitting. Well, it turns out the former employee could have given a little more notice, but she was no thief. She didn't take the cash drawer; she said she had left it there. Officers and the manager reviewed the security video, which showed two men entering the store shortly after the clerk had left. The two waited a while, looked around, and took the cash drawer and left, taking some food with them. The person who called 911 showed up just as they were leaving. A partial description of a suspect vehicle was obtained - a white Nissan Titan pickup.

So, moving on to the next day, Officer Steven Polonsky observed a vehicle matching that limited description. Where does he find it? At a different fast food restaurant, also in West Bremerton, at the drive thru. Officer John VanSantford assisted and the vehicle was stopped on Kitsap Way. After some investigation, officers received enough information about what happened. Their version matched the surveillance video. Officers recovered the abandoned cash drawer as well, but not all of the cash which had apparently been spent on fast food and other items. The men were still wearing the same clothes featured in the video the night before. A search warrant was obtained for the truck, and we located food from the restaurant, rolled up coins taken from the cash drawer, and, shockingly...methamphetamine paraphernalia. No wonder these guys were up all night. They are in jail now for Burglary on \$50,000 bail. That's a lot of rolled up coins.

Thursday night at about 4:00 AM, our dispatch center received several reports of a man screaming in the water. The exact location was not initially clear. Officers eventually located the man, who had fallen off of his boat at Bridgewater Marina near Anderson Cove, and who had then been rescued by his neighbors. The cause of the fall was apparently the man's overly playful black lab, named "Bucky". The man was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Finally this week, I wanted to pass along this note from our Municipal Court staff:

*Chief,*

*This information comes from our Security Officer, Mel Deven. A gentleman came into the court house on Thursday, and he was wearing a neck brace. He wanted to pass on a thank you to the officer that helped him out on Wednesday. Mel told him where the PD was, but the man related the following story. He had his neck fused in Seattle and was released on Wednesday, took the ferry back over to Bremerton where he lived. He got off the ferry boat and went to get a cab home, but there were no cabs available. The Bremerton Police Officer working traffic control at the Ferry Terminal saw him standing out there and asked if everything was okay. The man told him about his neck situation and that he was trying to get a cab home. The officer had dispatch call for a cab but none seemed to be available. The officer, seeing that the*

January 11, 2016

## Contact



Follow @BremertonPD

**Chief Steven Strachan**  
(360) 473-5224  
[About](#) | [e-mail](#)

**Captain Tom Wolfe**  
[About](#) | [e-mail](#)

**Lieutenant Pete Fisher**  
[About](#) | [e-mail](#)

**Captain Jim Burchett**  
[About](#) | [e-mail](#)

**Lieutenant Luis Olan**  
[About](#) | [e-mail](#)

## BPD on BKAT

BPD Video Updates now available on BKAT! [Click here](#) to watch the latest.

## Unlucky 13

[Click here](#) to download the current Unlucky 13 list.

## Online Reporting

[Drug Tips](#)

[Report an Issue](#)

[Traffic Tips](#)

## Headquarters

1025 Burwell Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
(360) 473-5220  
[www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov)

*man was cold, gave him some hand warmers, and then when back over to deal with traffic control. The officer came back and the man still had not been able to get a cab, or find a friend to give him a ride home. The officer told him he was off duty now, and would give him a ride home. Mel said the man was really touched by the officer's kindness and willingness to help him out.*

Steven D. Strachan, Chief of Police  
Bremerton Police Department  
1025 Burwell Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
[Steven.Strachan@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Strachan@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

360-473-5224  
Fax: 360-473-5890  
Assistant: Barbara Forbes  
[Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)